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THE HOMES
OF
Our Forefathers



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Book W593

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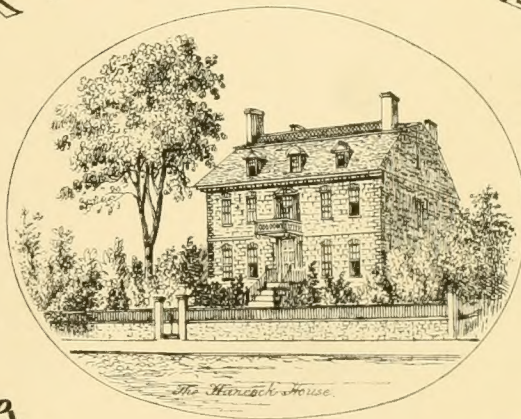
THE HOMES

OF OUR

FOREFATHERS;

BEING A

SELECTION



Of the Oldest and Most Interesting Buildings
In Massachusetts.

From Original Drawings, by E. Whitefield.

WITH HISTORICAL MEMORANDA.

BOSTON:

Published by A. Williams & Co., 283 Washington Street.

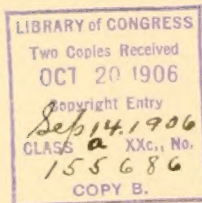
1879.

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TO THE READER.



THE object of this book is to preserve and hand down to all future posterity representations of the Homes of their Forefathers. From a variety of causes they are rapidly disappearing; and before long the places that now know them will know them no more. It has been a labor of love to the undersigned to collect these mementoes of the past, and his efforts have been ably seconded by many gentlemen to whom his thanks are hereby returned. He has labored under many disadvantages which cannot be here enumerated; but he has tried to do his work faithfully, and no liberties have been taken with the old buildings here represented, or with their surroundings, merely for pictorial effect. It is true that a few houses have been slightly altered from what they *are* to what they *were* originally; and sometimes an indifferent object, such as an old barn, or it may be a tree, has been left out or pushed aside to show the building to better advantage; thus, if not photographically correct, they are sufficiently so for all practical purposes.

Many persons will ask why Plymouth is so poorly represented. It is much to be regretted that so little which is old remains there; and every one who visits the place is, in consequence, disappointed. Yet it must be borne in mind that Kingston was originally a part of Plymouth, and the old houses shown in that town are practically Plymouth houses. The old house in Pembroke also was, when built, in Plymouth; so that, upon the whole, Plymouth is not so poorly represented as might at first sight appear.

With these preliminary remarks he respectfully offers his book to all who are interested in the early history of those who laid the foundations of this Commonwealth, trusting it will meet with their approval.

E. WHITEFIELD.

BOSTON, MASS., April 19, 1879.



DATE OF IMPORTANT EVENTS

—♦— IN THE ♦—

EARLY HISTORY OF NEW ENGLAND.

—*—

Cape Cod, so named by Capt. Gosnold and his company,	1602	Mr. Hooker, with one hundred persons, left Cambridge, and settled Hartford, Connecticut,	1636
Settlement by Popham and Gilbert on the Kennebec River, but soon afterwards abandoned,	1607	Rhode Island settled by Roger Williams,	1636
The Pilgrims landed at Cape Cod, November 11th, and then and there entered into a solemn covenant, and chose John Carver as their governor,	1620	Pequot War in Connecticut broke out,	1637
The Pilgrims landed at Plymouth, and decided to make a settlement there, December 22,	1620	Massachusetts, Connecticut, Plymouth and New Haven formed a confederacy for mutual protection,	1643
Weston's Colony, settled at Weymouth,	1622	The first witch trial in New England (Margaret Jones, of Charlestown),	1648
Rev. Mr. White, a minister of Dorchester, England, in- duced a number of persons, under a Mr. Winslow, to commence a settlement at Cape Ann,	1624	Silver money first coined by Massachusetts,	1652
Endicott's Colony landed at Salem,	1628	Persecutions of the Quakers commenced,	1656
Roger Williams ordered to leave Salem,	1634	The King Philip War broke out,	1675
Connecticut settled by men from Dorchester, Massachu- setts, at Winsor,	1635	The French and Indian War commenced, and lasted seven years,	1690
		Witchcraft troubles at Salem,	1692
		Plymouth and Massachusetts united,	1652

Cambridge.



The Longfellow House

This house, surpassing in interest almost any other in N. England, for having been so long the head-quarters of Gen. Washington and for now being the home of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow stands in Brattle St. It was probably built in 1755 by John Vassal, and has been owned and occupied by several eminent men before it passed into the hands of its present possessor.

Dedham.



The Fairbanks House.

This house was built by Jonathan Fairbanks in 1630, and has always belonged to his descendants. It stands not far from the Depot, at the corner of Willow & East sts.

Melrose.



The Lynde House.

This house was built about 1675, soon after the commencement of the King Philip war. It stands in the south-western part of the town, near Washington st.

Concord.



The Hubbard House.

This house was probably built about 1670, and was torn down about three years since. It stood near the Common, and in it were concealed many military stores at the time of the Concord fight 1765.

Brookline.



The Aspinwall House.

The Aspinwall mansion on Aspinwall Avenue, Brookline, was built by Peter Aspinwall, in 1660; has never been out of the possession of his descendants of the name; and is now (1879) owned by Hon. William Aspinwall of Brookline.

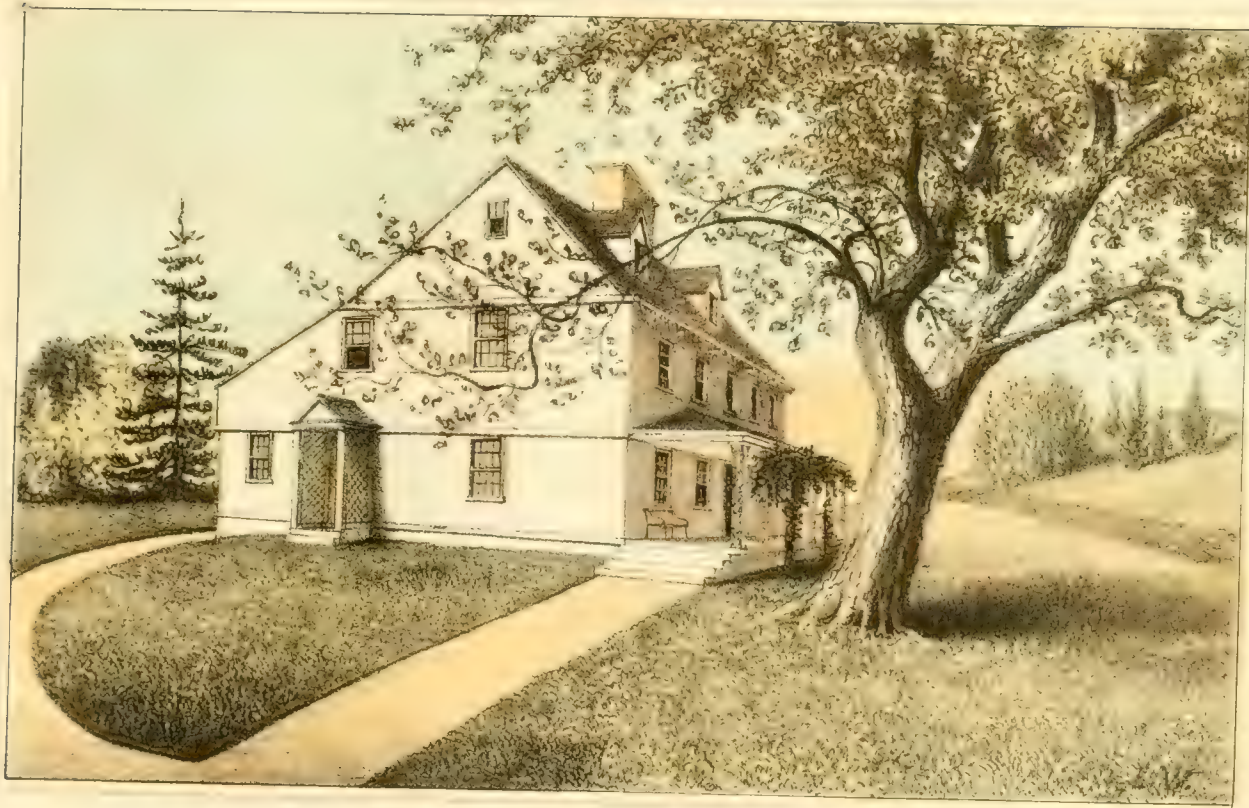
West Roxbury.



The Curtis House.

This was built by Wm Curtis in 1639, and has always been in the possession of his descendants. Gen. Washington occupied it for a short time at the commencement of the Revolutionary War. It stands very near the the Boylston station of the Providence R. R.

Swampscott.



The Mudge Farm House.

This house stands on the farm of E.R. Mudge and is one of the oldest in New England, having been built in 1634 by John Humphrey. The frame and timbers used in the building were brought from England. It has of course been somewhat modernized. Humphrey or Sumner, as the name is variously spelled, was a native of Dorchester, England, and was an able and wealthy man. He was deputy-governor of the Colony.

Duxbury.



The Standish House.

This house was built by Alexander, son of Capt Standish, about the year 1666. The Captain's house stood about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile distant: of this no vestige remains except the cellar. This is marked in the picture near the top of a hill to the right of the present house.

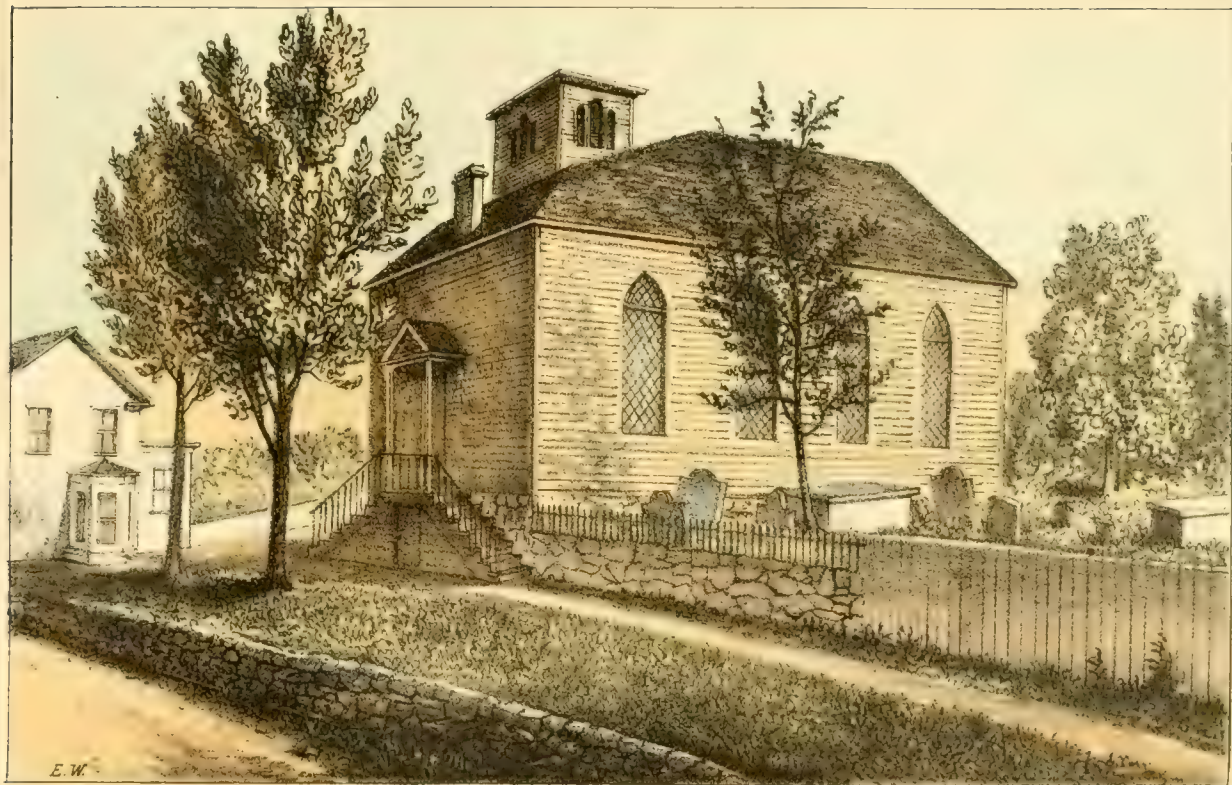
Ipswich.



The Saltenstall House.

This was built by Richard eldest son of Sir Richard Saltenstall, about the year 1655, and is a very interesting old building, both externally and internally. The lower part is filled in with brick and stone and is bullet proof. It stands very near the depot. This is sometimes called the Bond House.

Marblehead.



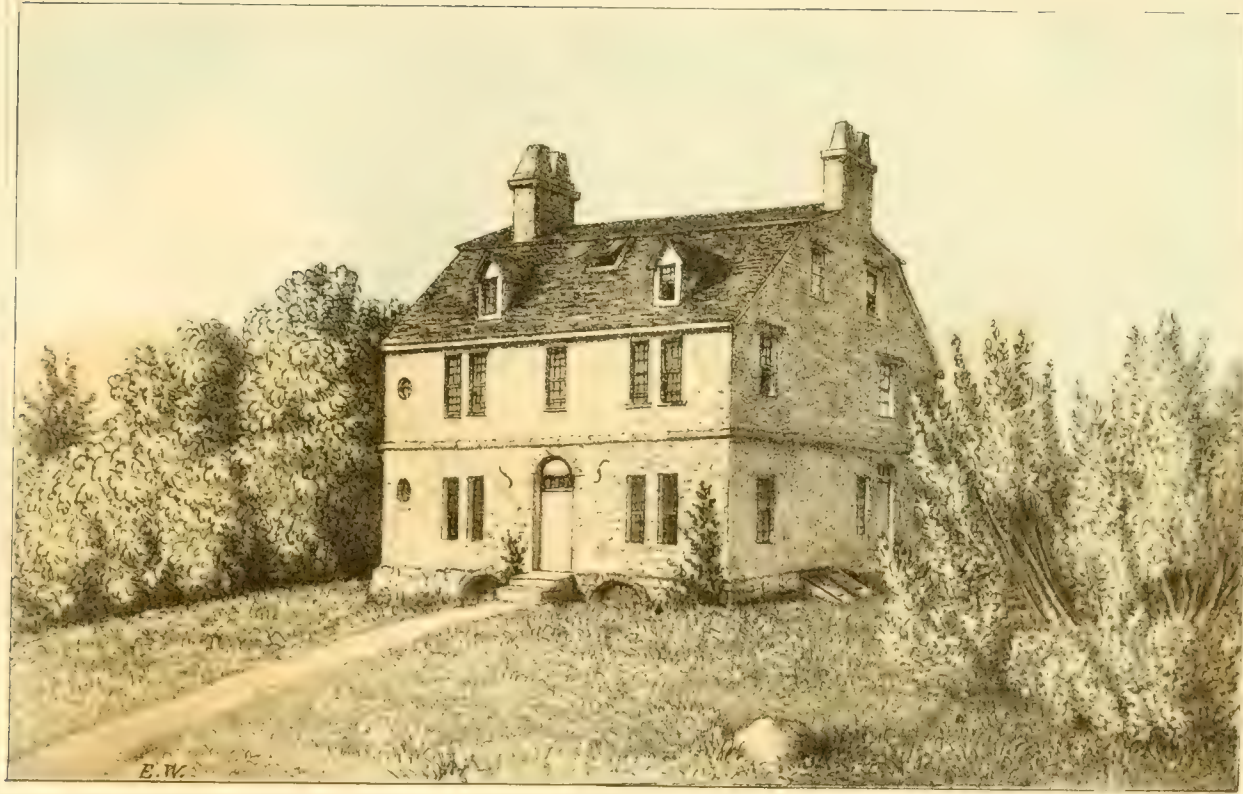
St. Michael's Church

It was built in 1714, and is probably the oldest Episcopal church in New England. The following lines by Whittier are exceedingly appropriate

"Church to reverend memories dear
 Quaint in desk and chandelier
 Bell, whose century rusted tongue
 Burials tolled and brides rung

Loft whose tiny organ kept
 Keys that Snetzler's hand had swept,
 How the voice of old
 Sinai's law its thunders rolled"

Medford.



The Cradock House.

This was built for Matthew Cradock, the first Governor of Massachusetts, rather of the company in London, as he never came to this country; but it was evidently his intention to do so, or he would not have had this house built for him. It was the first brick house erected in N. England and was built in 1651. It is in a pretty good state of preservation.

Fingham,



The Old Meeting House.

This was built in 1682 and is the oldest Meeting House now standing in N England, and although it has been enlarged still preserves its original form and style. It stands on high ground near the main street, and from the bellry there is a charming and extensive view.

Quincy.



The Adams Houses.

These are situated on Franklin street and were built at least as early as 1720 but the exact time cannot be ascertained. President John Adams was born in the right hand house, and J. Quincy Adams in the one on the left hand.



The Old North.

Christ Church, or the North Church, was built 1723, and is the oldest church still now standing in Boston. It is famous for containing the oldest chime of bells in England, & also because from its steeple the signal lanterns of Paul Revere were hung April 18th 1775.

"If the British march
By land or sea from the town to-night
Hang a lantern aloft in the belfry arch
Of the North Church tower as a signal light,
One, if by land, and two, if by sea."

Longfellow.



The Old South.

The Old South is so well known that it were superfluous to say more than that this structure which is, I think, now erected in 1729 soon after a former house (a wooden one) had been burnt down, it stands on land given by Mr. Norton, at the corner of Washington & Milk Sts.

"In the heart of Boston now
Stands the church of old renown
From whose walls the impulse went
Which set free a continent,
And whose steeple-ringing din
Rang the nation's birth-day in."

1846.

Salem.



The Prince House

This house, called also the Knight House, stands at the corner of Nassau & Forester Sts. it was built by Richard Prince, Deacon of the first church of Salem about 1669.

Newbury.



The Noyes House

This was built by the Rev. Jas. Noyes about 1636. It stands at short distance from the Old Town church.

Wenham.



The Ober House

This house was built about 1680. It is about a mile from the N. H. Station on the road to Danvers.

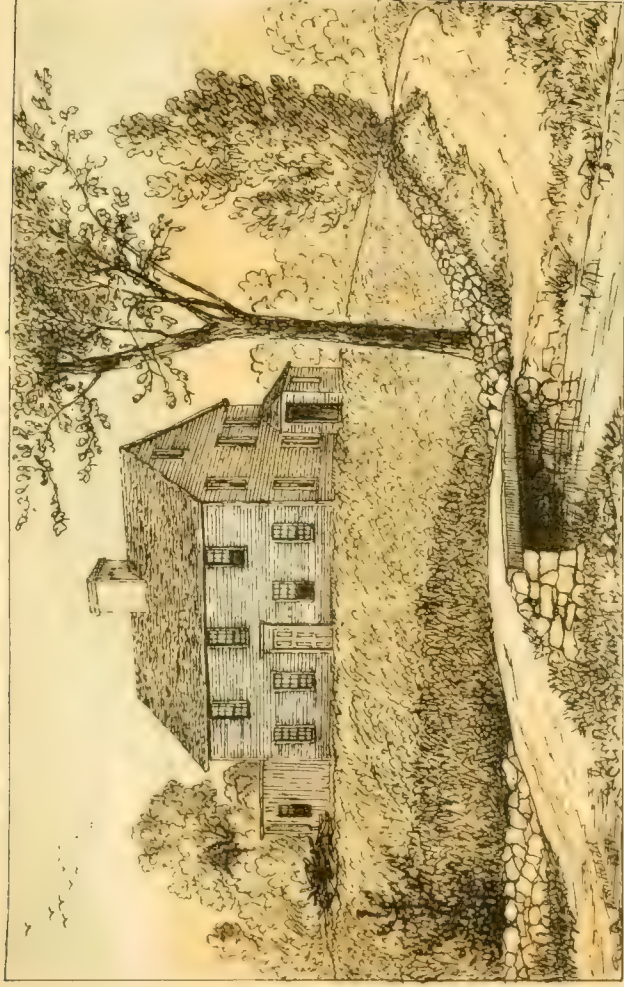
Plymouth.



The Bradford House.

This house once stood on Town Square, and it is believed that Gov. Bradford once lived in it, but it, like all the other dwellings of the Pilgrims has been swept away by the ruthless hand of Improvement.

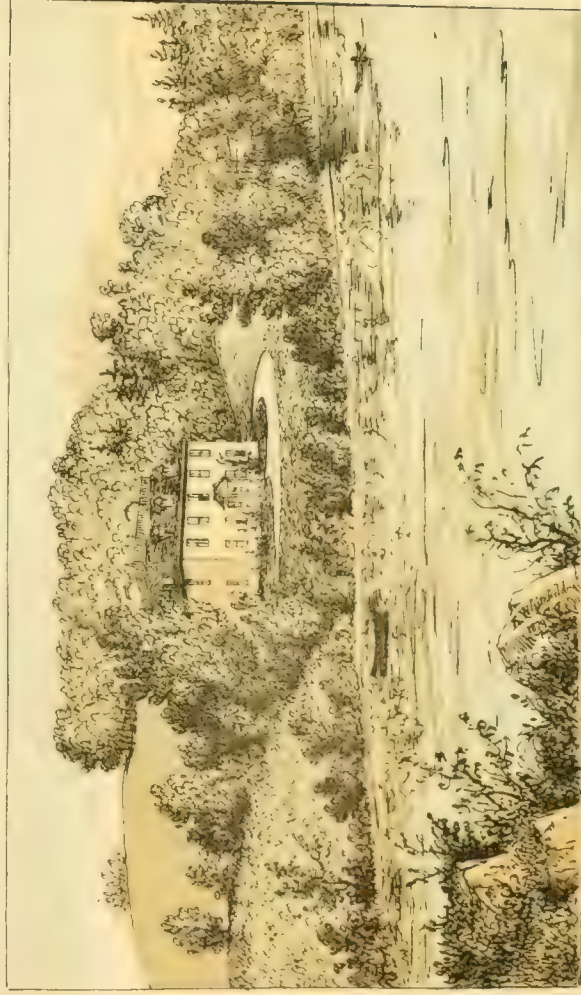
Maverhill.



Birth-place of John G. Whittier.

This house was built by Thos. Whittier (an ancestor of the Poet) who came over from England in 1630, and settled first in Salisbury, removing thence to Winbury and afterwards to Maverhill, where he built a small house near the present one, which latter he erected about 1665. It was finally shopped to one story at the back, but was afterwards raised to its present proportions. It stands near the dump-hole leading to Amherst, about 3 miles out of Maverhill.

Maverhill.



The Saltonstall House.

This house was built about 180 years ago by Dr. Nath. Saltonstall, on the north side of Merrimack, near Amherst, where the Post Office now is. It was intended at first, being given to the Merrimack River and the Merrimack River, it was removed to its present location on Saltonstall Lane, by the grandson, Nath. Saltonstall, of Amherst.

Cambridge.



The Wadsworth House

This house was built in 1726, and for 120 years it was the official residence of the Presidents of Harvard College. No building in Cambridge has sheltered so many people of eminence, probably as Wadsworth House. It is now used as a dormitory.

Cambridge.



The Holmes House

This was built by Jacob Fox about 1730, and is the birth-place of Dr Oliver Wendell Holmes. It was occupied by the Committee of Safety in 1775, and Washington occupied it for three days. It is now owned by Harvard College.

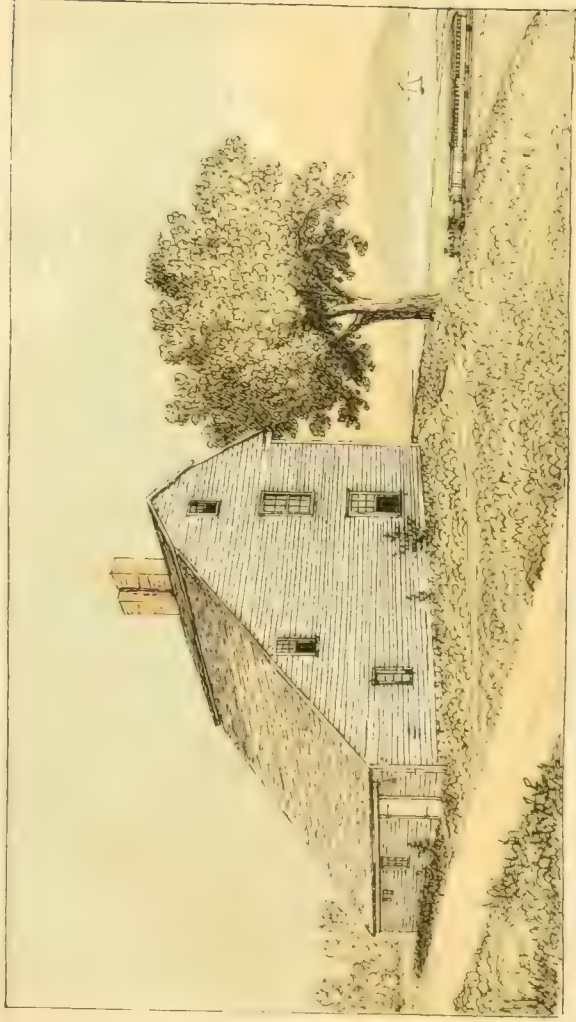
Concord.



The Abbott House.

This house belongs to J. Brown. It was built and is situated near the Lexington Road. It was originally belonged to the Brown family and is about 150 years old. The above view shows the house as it was before the Abbot altered it.

Revere.

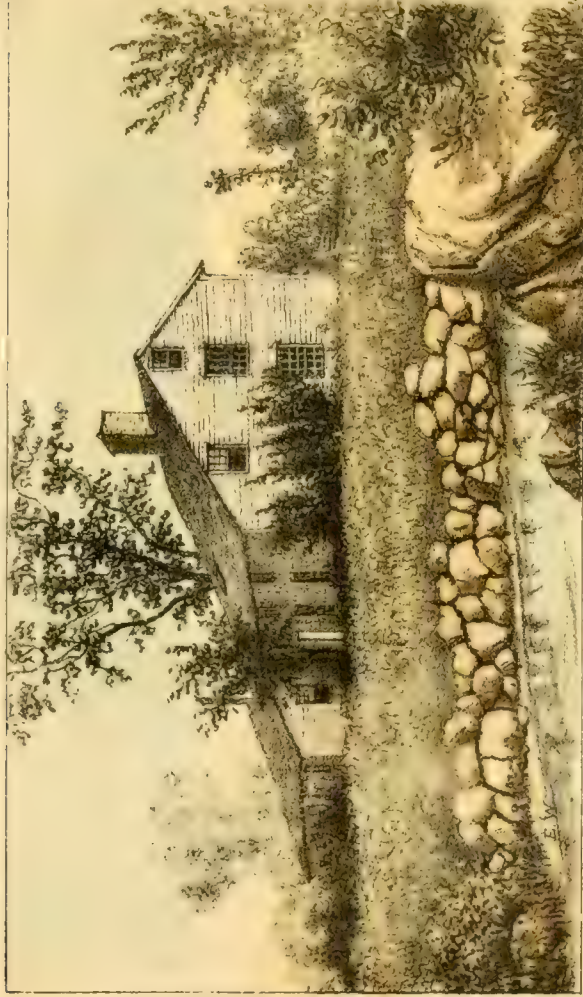


The Freeman House.

This was built for the first minister settled here, about 1650. It stands on elevated ground, and during the Revolutionary War it was frequently fired at by British cruisers, and many balls have been ploughed up on the lawn.

Pembroke.

The oldest house in N. England!



The Bampton House.

This was built by Snodgrass in 1698, who accompanied by Frederick, a colored man, strided from Plymouth in a ship back, and followed the shore until they reached the mouth of the Choptank River. This they ascended until they found a place suitable for building and here they commenced this house. Of course it was not as large as is a new; but it has added to it various lives by his descendants, so it has never passed out of the family, & is now owned by Belmont, a great great grandson of the founder, and at the present time (1875) over 85 years of age.

It stands about 8 miles from the Stonewall N.Y. station.

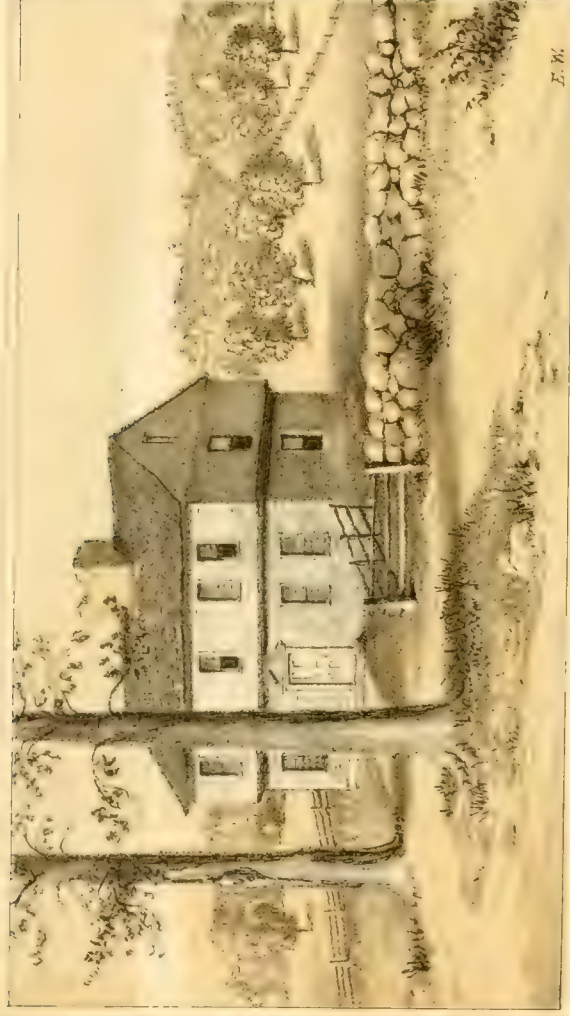
Wokefield.



The Hartshorne House

This is believed to be the oldest house now remaining in Wokefield, having been built about 1730. It stands on the road to Headline, about 2 1/2 miles from the N.Y. station of Wokefield.

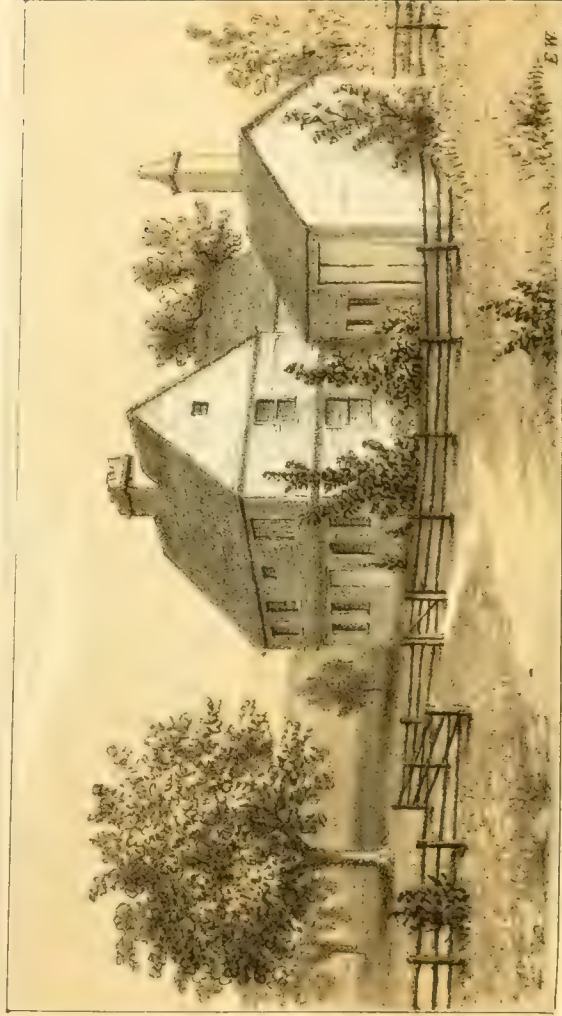
Enn.



The Lewis House.

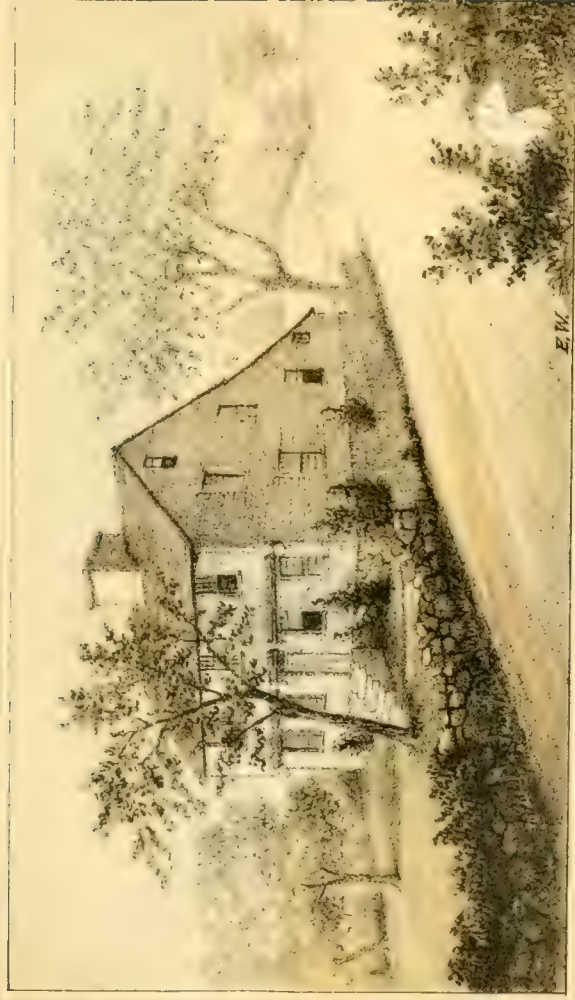
This house was built probably about 1680. It stood at the foot of Boston St., but has been pulled down and moved to two different parts of the city.

Newburyport.



The Pillsbury House.

This was built by Joshua Pillsbury about 1685, and has always been owned by his descendants. It stands on High St. near the Bellville church.



The White or Ellery House.

This was built by Rev. John White 1703, and after his death was for some years used as a Town House. It is very strongly built and has a chimney of immense size. It stands on Washington St. about a mile from the R. R. Station. The 4 balls shown in the front of the house were cut off a few years since.

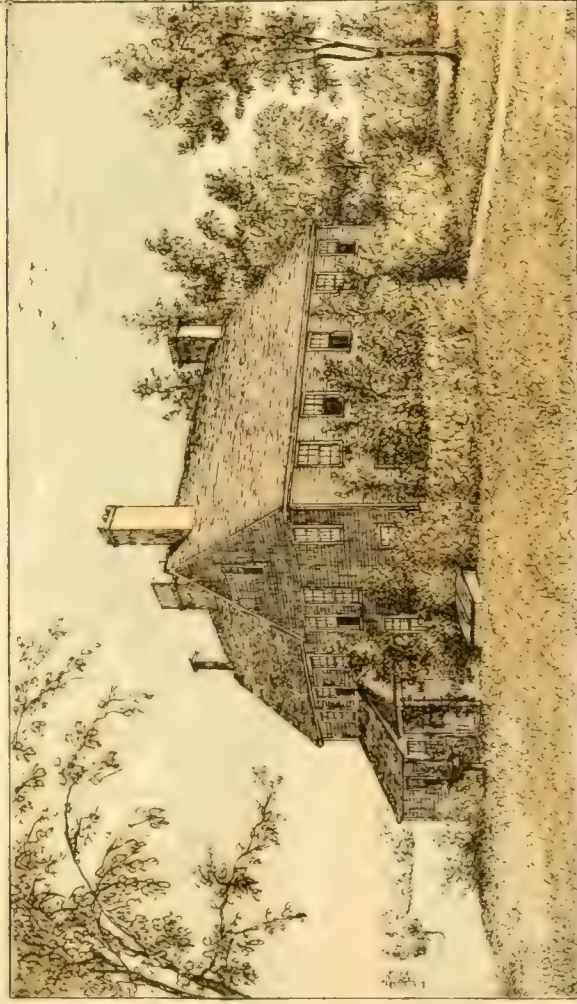
Peabody.



The Peabody House.

This was built as a Garrison House at the commencement of the French & Indian War, or about 1820. It was originally surrounded by a palisade fence. It is now owned by the Messrs. Butler.

Norbury.



The Coffin House.

This house was probably built by Squire Coffin, about 1650, before he removed to Salisbury which was in 1654. It is not likely that the main portion was erected much later, as the rear part is evidently much the older. It stands on a high tower a 1500' distance from the old town church.

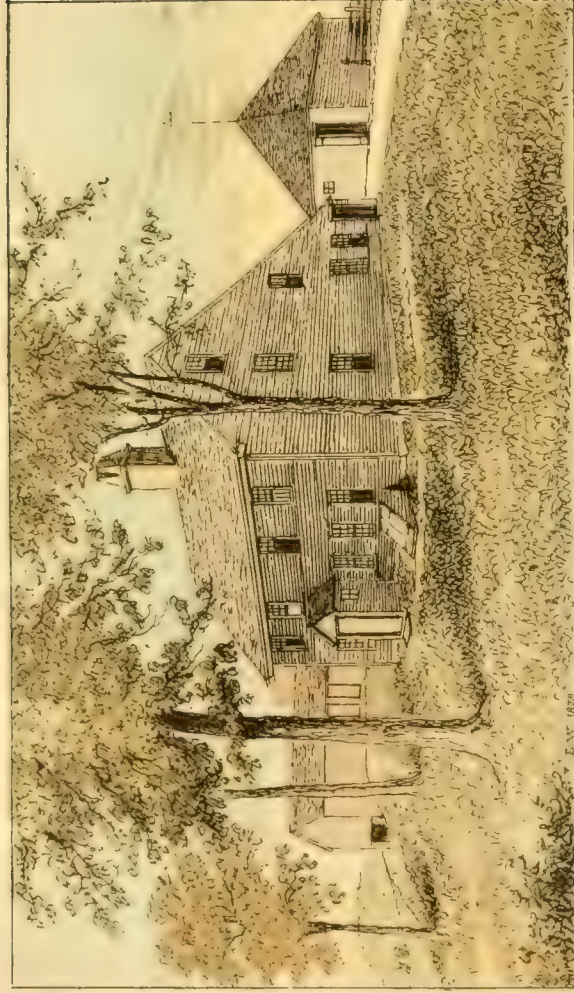
Kingston.



The Willett House.

This was built by John Willett about 1638. He afterwards went to N. York, of which city he was elected or appointed the first English mayor. He afterwards returned to Mass. and died a Quaker. This house is more than a mile from the R.R. station on the road to Bridgewater.

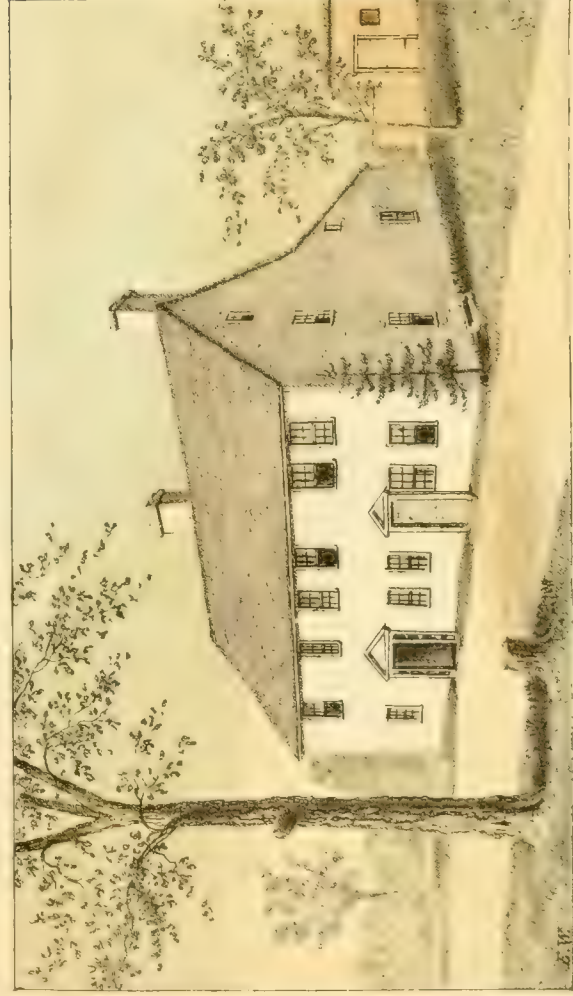
Dwells.



The Endicott or Morse House.

This house was built by Samuel Endicott, 1840, and was afterwards owned and occupied by his son, the late Mr. Endicott, and was the residence of the Morse family, and here lived Rebecca Morse, one of the victims of the Massachusetts. It is now owned by Miss Putnam.

Dorchester.



The Morse House.

This house was built by Robert Morse 1840, and occupied by him until his death 1864; since which time it has remained in the possession of his lineal descendants. It stands on Oak Avenue, Adams St.



Marblehead.



The Moll Pitcher House.

This house built about 1720 was the birth-place of the noted Moll Pitcher who was born here 1743. It stands on Pine St.

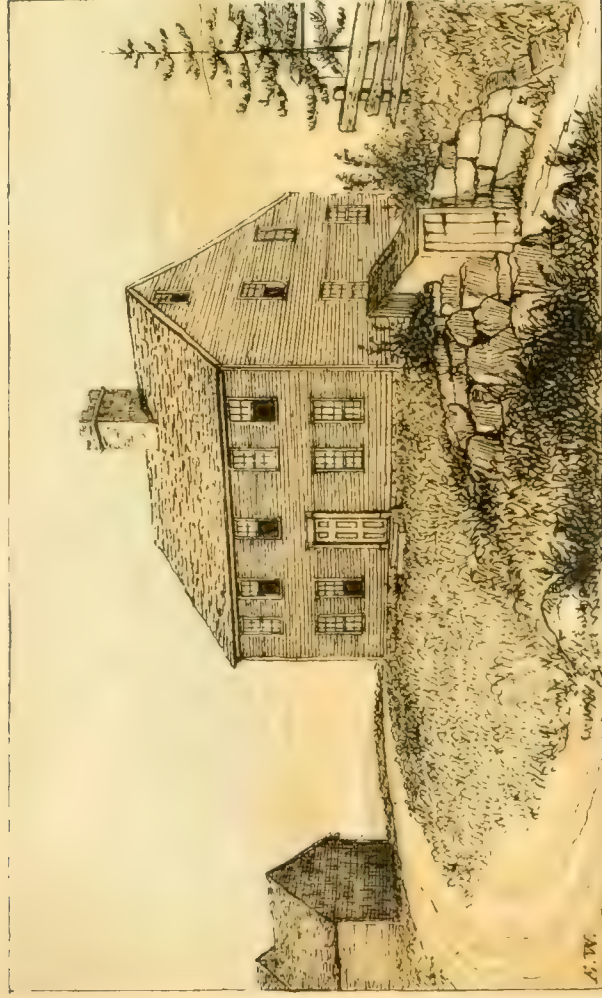
Brighton.



The Folsom House.

This was built by John Folsom before the town had any records but there is little doubt that it was erected as early as 1640. It has recently been pulled down.

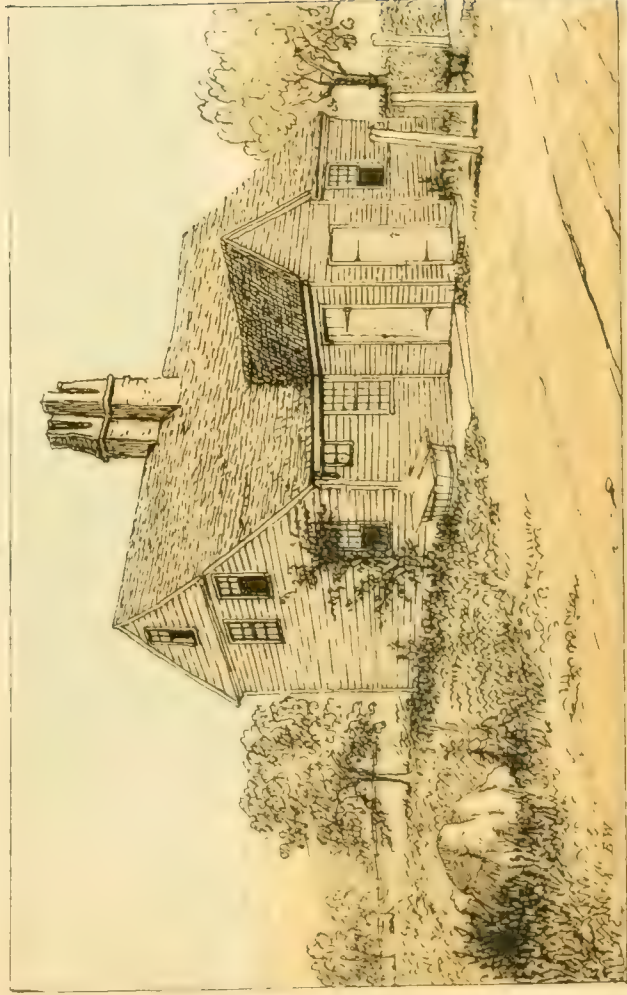
Andover.



The Holt House

This house stands on the side of Prospect Hill, from which a very extensive and charming view can be obtained. It was probably built about 1775.

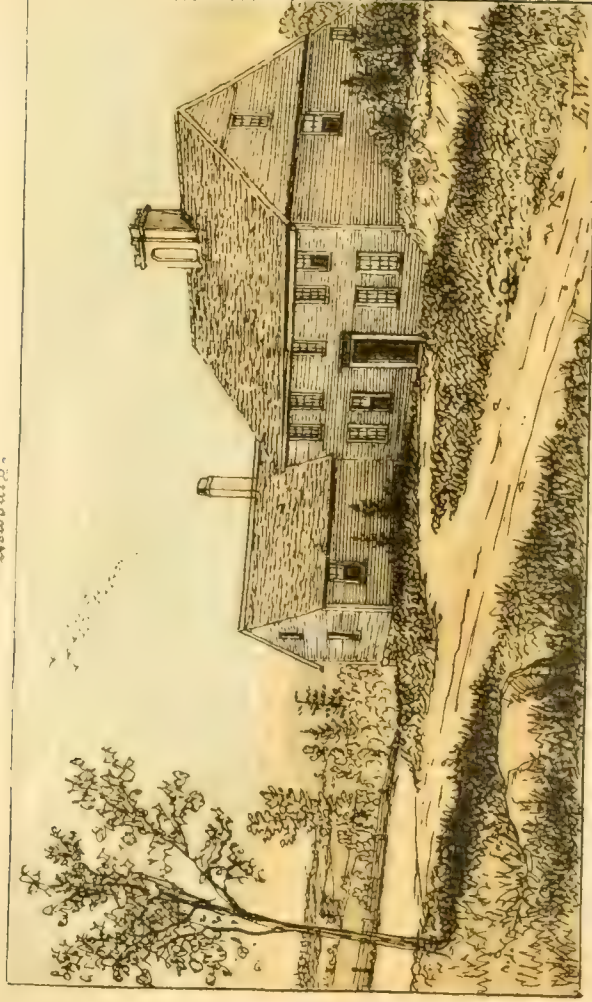
Revere.



The Floyd House.

This house was the second house built in this part of the town, then called Romney Marsh, probably about 1770.

Newbury.



This was probably built by a man named Spencer, about 1640 and afterwards sold to John Côté whose descendants still live here. It stands near the turnpike, a short distance below Carter River.

The Port House.

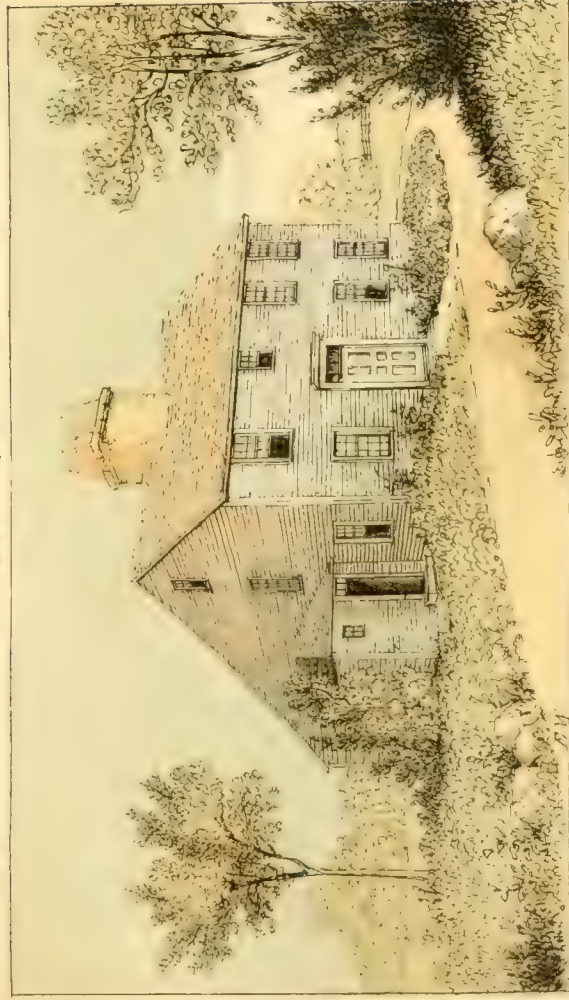
Kingston.



The Allerton or Cobb House.

This house, or rather a portion of it, is reported to have been built by Isaac Allerton, perhaps about 1640, but there seems to be a great deal of uncertainty about this. It was afterwards owned by Ebenezer Cobb, who died here in 1801, aged 107 years and 8 months. It stands in a field in the south-western part of the town near the road leading to Plymouth.

ending.



The Sweetzer House

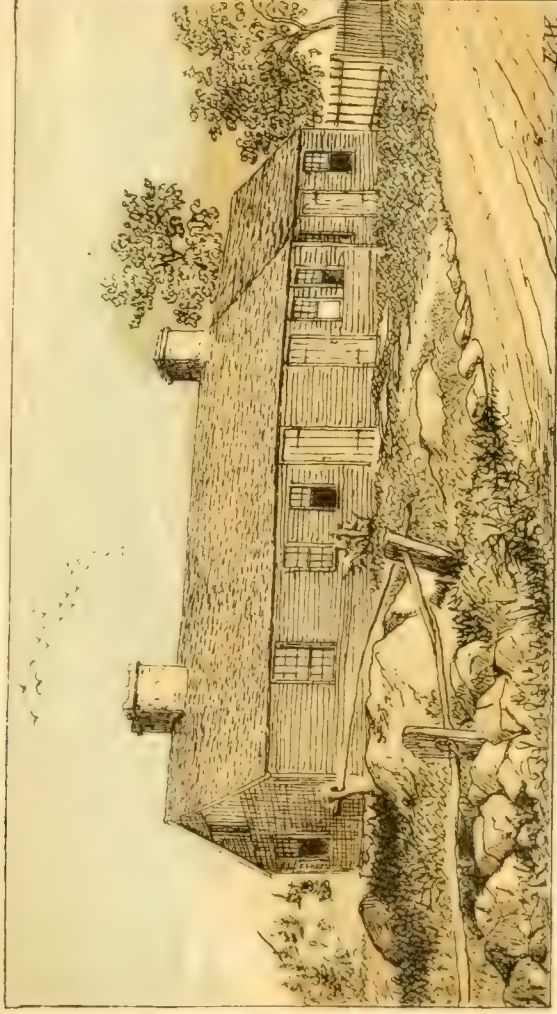
This house is now used as a school. It was built about 1725. During the Revolutionary War it was used as a hospital for British prisoners who were quartered here. It stands near the school.

North Andover.



The Phillips House

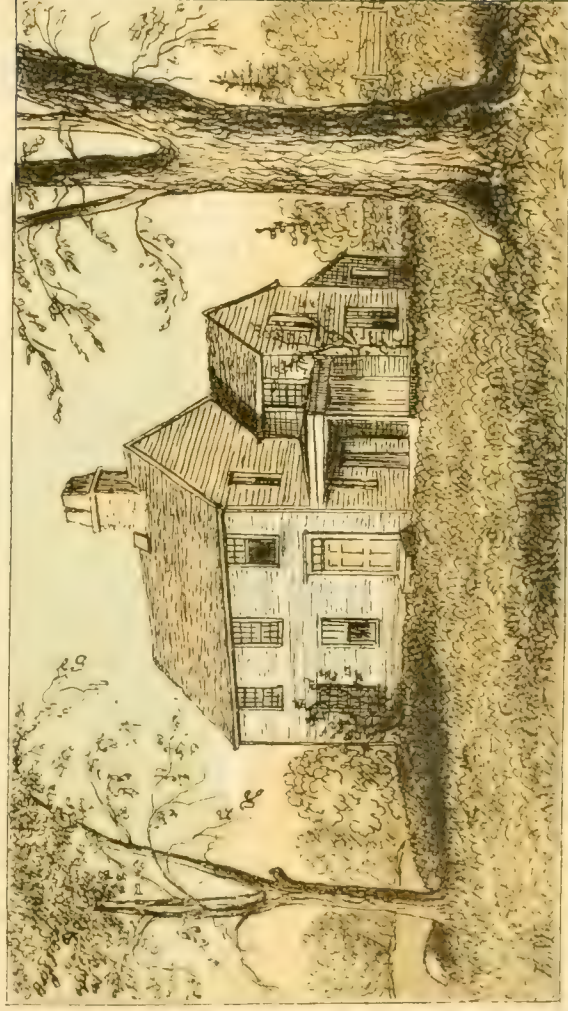
This house was built about 1725. It stands near the Andover turnpike, nearly opposite the Phillips House.



The Lincoln House.

The right-hand portion of this house is said to have been built by Indians on Green Hill and was moved to where it now stands by Abraham Lincoln over 100 years since. It stands on the present road about 3 miles from Cobasset village.

Cobasset.



The Nichols House.

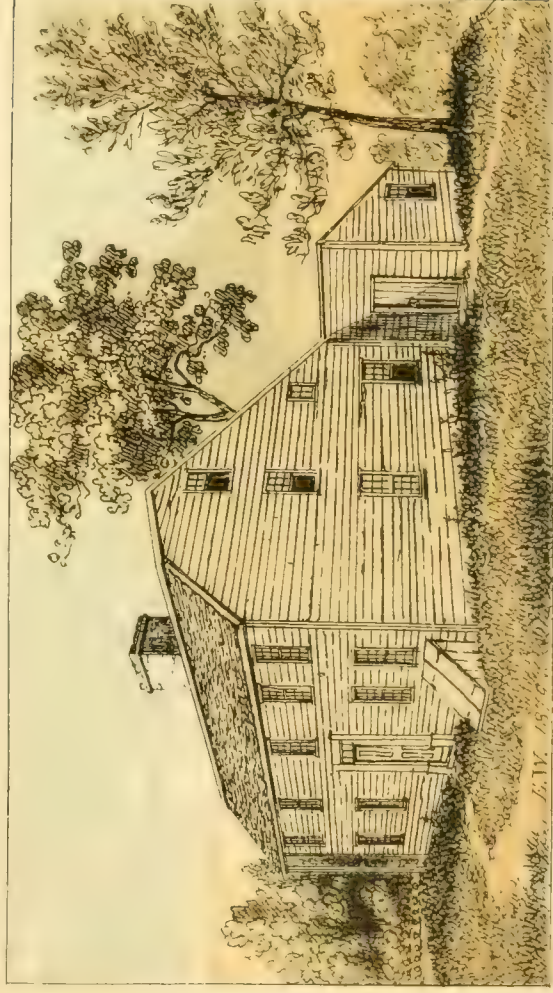
This was probably built about 200 years ago by J. A. Cushing. It is now owned by Mrs. M. Nichols. It stands on King St. about a mile from the village.

Stockport.



*The Bolt House.
This was built about 1700 by a man named Bolt. It stands near the ocean in that part
of Stockport called Tagon Cove.*

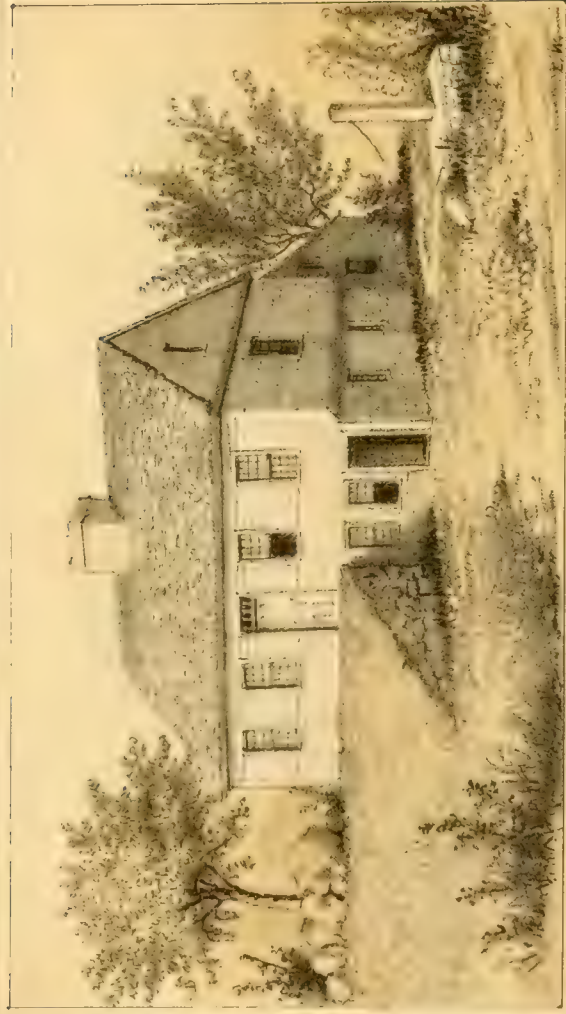
Stoneham.



The Old Parsonage House.

*The above stands on Central St. Stoneham, and was built in 1747 for a Parsonage;
but is not now used as such. The occupants have been Rev. John Cornes, Rev. John Ingham, Rev.
John Cleveland, and Rev. John H. Stevens.*

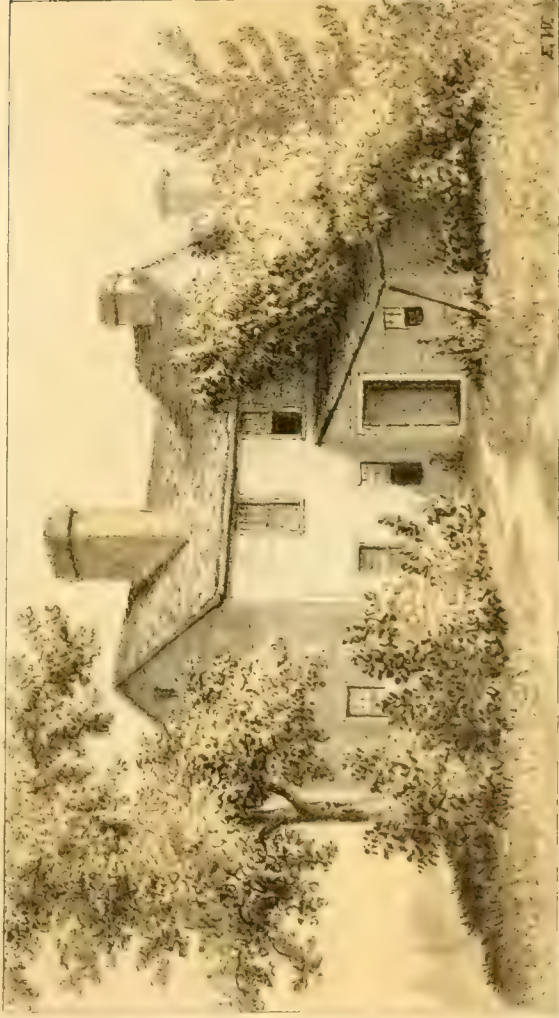
Rowley.



The Clark House.

This house was built by a man named Chaplin, and is now owned by Moses Clark. The exact date of its erection is uncertain but it was probably about 1870.

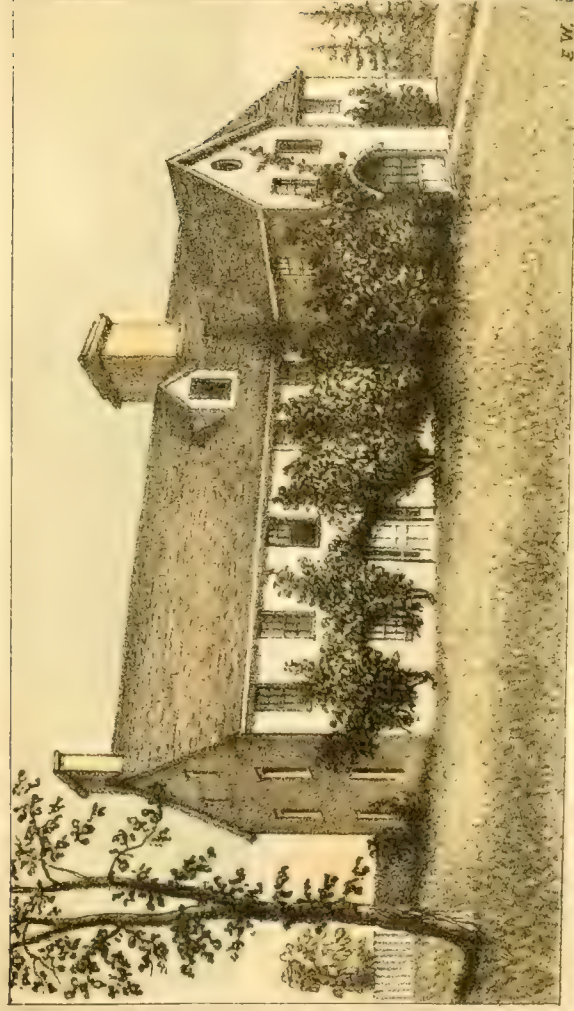
Waltham.



The Brown House.

This was built by Abraham Brown 1632, and is therefore one of the very oldest houses in New England. It stands on Main St., on the road to Waltham.

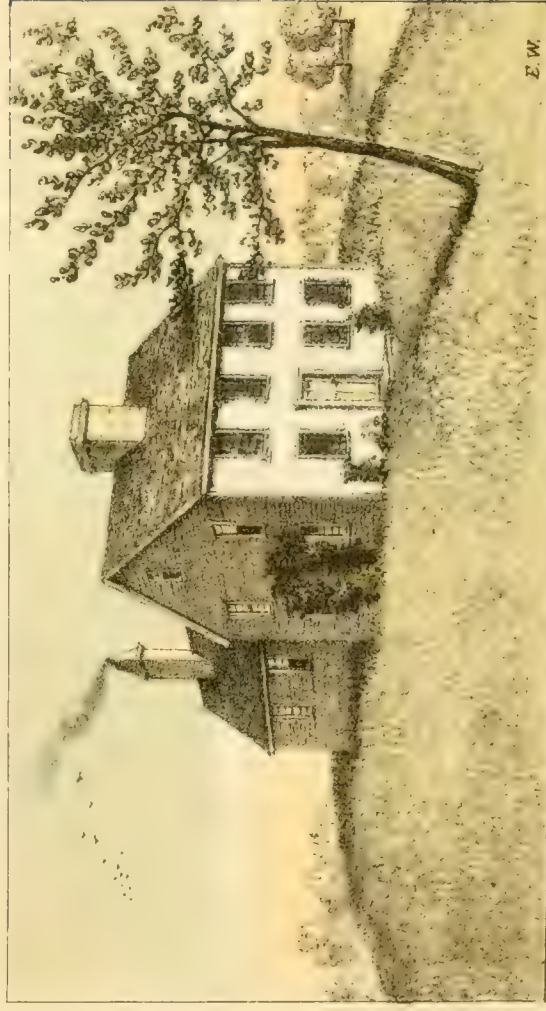
Newbury.



The Little White House

This was built by Col. Daniel Pierce, an ancestor of President Pierce, about 1835, and is the finest mansion now remaining in Mass. of so early a date. It was built for a Garrison House, the larger portion being of stone & brick, and the walls are very thick. The center chimney is of enormous size. It has passed through many changes of ownership from being to a Mr. Little.

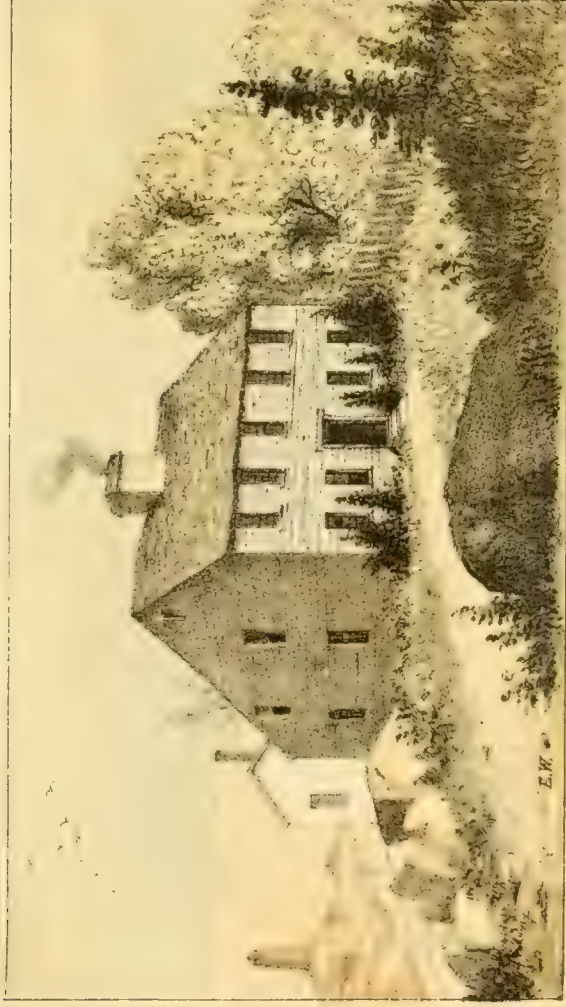
Newbury.



The Allen House.

This was built by Gen. Allen, son of the John Allen who came over in the Mayflower. It was erected in or about 1653, and has been very little changed from its original appearance. It stands on high ground, very near the B. & N. station. It has never passed out of the family, and an eighth generation of John Allens still live in the house.

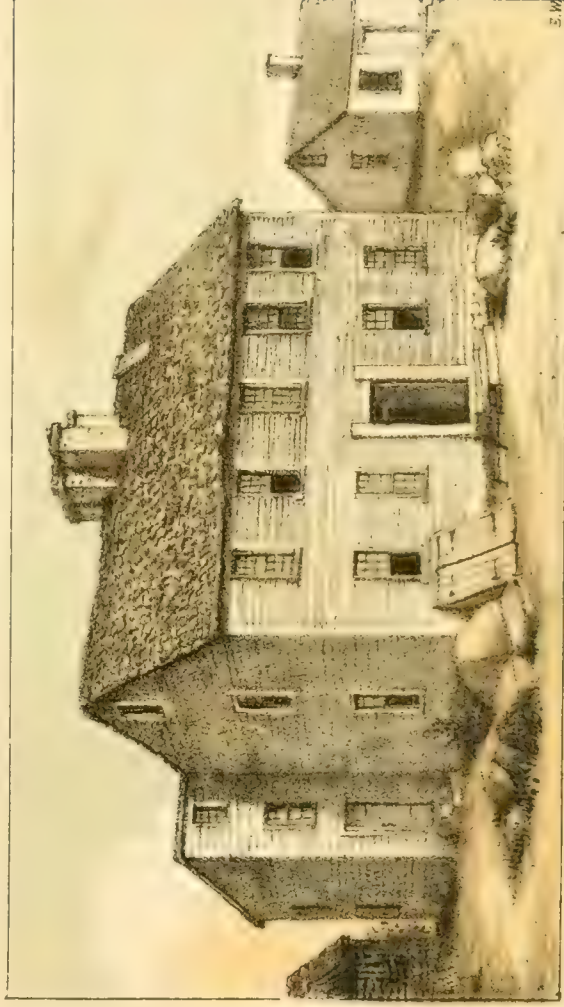
Beverly.



The Baker House.

This is on Essex St. near the old Butler House, and is owned by John L. Baker. It is believed to be the oldest house now standing in Beverly, having been built about the year 1635.

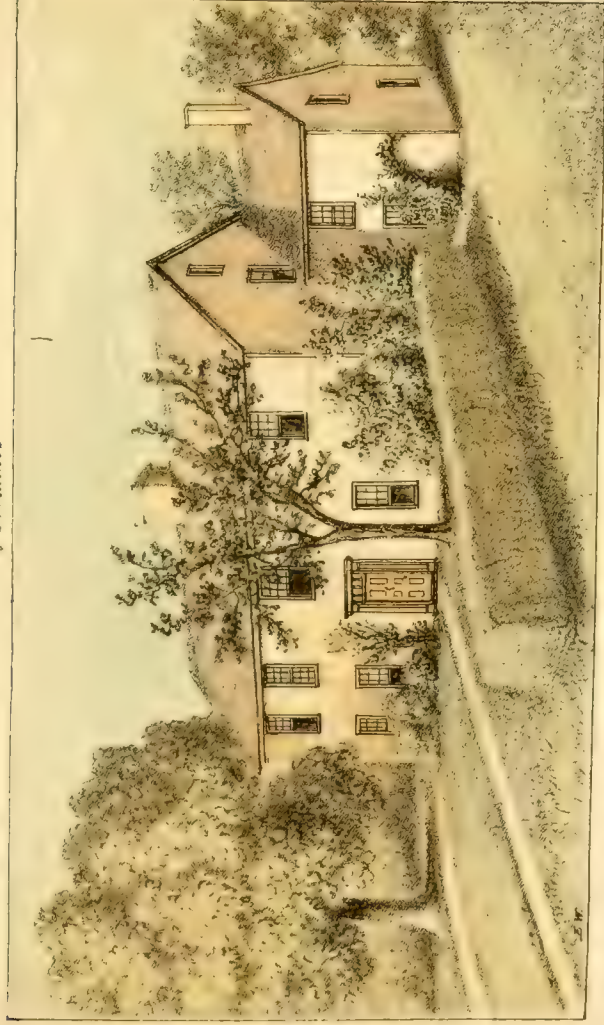
Salem.



The Palmer House.

This is on High St. Court and was built in 1695 by Richard Palmer. It is believed to be the oldest house now remaining in Salem, that has not been modernized, in although there are several other houses in Salem, they bear little or no resemblance to their originals.

Brookline.



The Gardner House

Isaac Gardner built this house about 1705. It is now owned by the Rev. Goddard here.

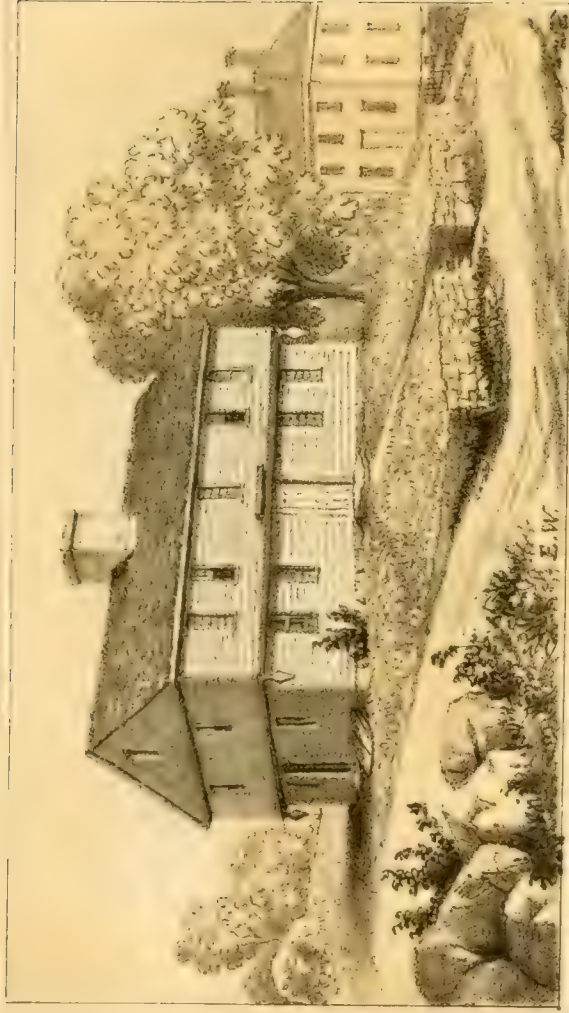
Arlington.



The Reed House.

This was built by Jason Russell about 1725. In this house he and eleven others were killed by the British troops on their return from Concord April 19th 1775.

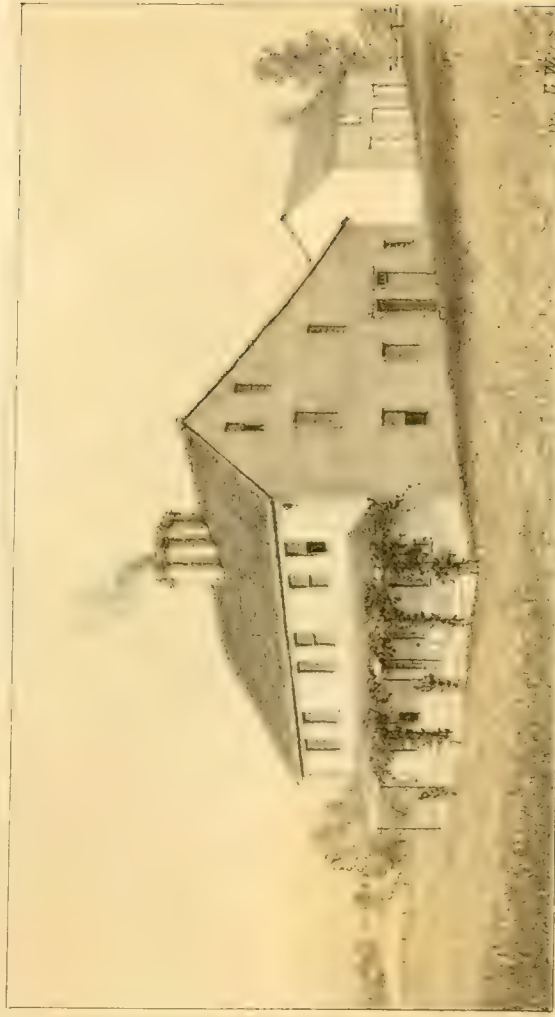
Lowell.



The Dracut Garrison House.

This house was built about 1680 for a garrison house. It is now owned by Major Cury, and stands on the River road about a mile below Lakeview bridge. This part of Dracut now belongs to Lowell.

Saugus.



The Old Iron Works House.

This was built in 1643, but has been somewhat modernized; the piazza having been added about 1830. The chimney is of enormous size, and is probably the largest in N. England. It derives its name from the fact that the man who built it commenced the manufacture of iron in 1645. It continued to be made for 100 years afterwards.

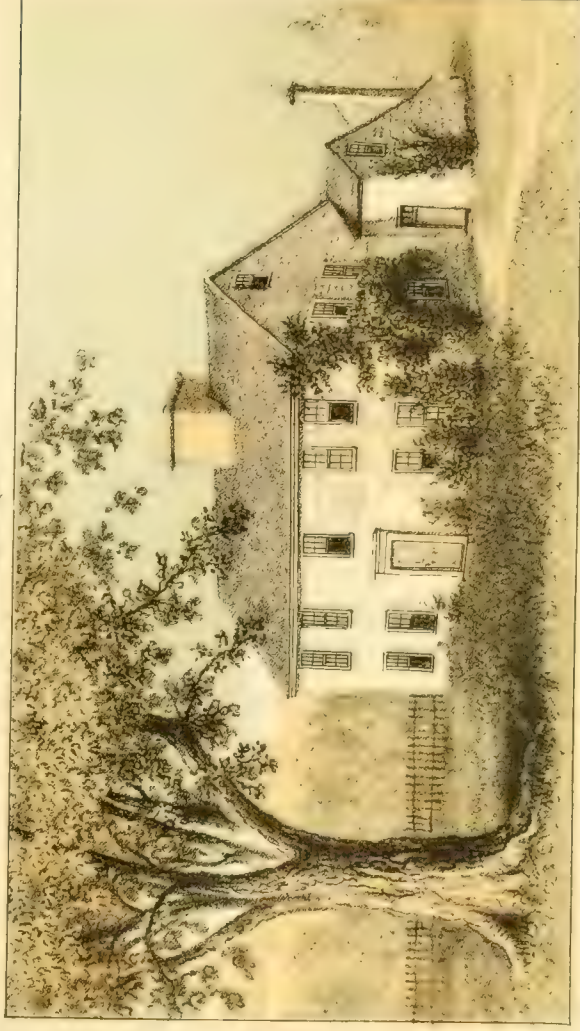
Concord.



The Old Manse

This was built by order of the Rev. Wm Emerson, 1775, the grandfather of Ralph Waldo Emerson. It is usually noted for having been visited by both Emersons who were at its present and former names.

Lexington



The Fidd House

This house was built by an ancestor of the present name (see vol. 1, p. 134). Mr. Fidd's grandfather, John Fidd, was one of the company under Capt. Parker who on the morning of the 19th of April 1775 opened the great doors of the American Revolution and he was severely wounded.







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